## CHURCH WEEKLY



## July 2020

ton Eccumenical Pullication from THE ALWAYE FELLOWSHIP HOUSE

## Church Weekly

Vol. 74

Issue 7
July 2020

## An Ecumenical Publication from

 THE ALWAYE FELLOWSHIP HOUSE74 "Year of Publication
FOUNDER CHIEF EDITOR : Sri. N.M. ABRAHAM
First Published : December 1946

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## CHURCH WEEKLY

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| 10 years | $₹$ | 900.00 |
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## ด๓กถักาコロー

＂It is very easy to defeat someone， but it is very hard to win someone＂

## A．P．J．Abdul Kalam

Born：October 15， 1931
Died：July 27， 2015

470 Years Ago
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35 Last Page

A Sense of Helplessness



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Black is Beautiful
WAYS OF THE UNDERDOG（Contd．）Dr．Raju K．John
God＇s Ways Are Inscrutable
The Last War
Anger
For You I Flower．．．
The（P）Art of Positive Thinking in Effective Healing

DID HE TOUCH ？

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K．G．Kumar
M．G．Kuruvilla

## A Sense of Helplessness

"And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of Heaven". (Nehemiah 1:4)

More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Tennyson never wrote a truer line. Behind the great victories of the spirit there is always someone on his knees.

There is no better illustration of this than the story of Nehemiah. In the first chapter, the curtain is lifted on him as an exile in Babylon. The news had just come to him of the desperate plight of the ruined city of Jerusalem. He felt that something must be done. It was told of a commanding officer during the war that when anyone came to him with a complaint, his invariable reply was, "Well, what are you going to do about $i t$ ?"

That is always God's challenge to us in any situation about which we are concerned or distressed. Whatever may affect our nation or the people around us, we cannot evade our personal responsibility. "We are members one of another."

But what could Nehemiah do? He was a slave, without means or power. It was one of those situations in which a man
feels utterly helpless and in which he is tempted to resign himself to events. We have all been in some such position.

There was, however, one thing Nehemiah could do. He could pray. That door is always open. The wall of circumstance may hem us around or shut us in; but there is always an opening to the skies. The final meaning of our bafflement is that we should look up and find it. When a man is beaten to his knees, he is in the attitude of prayer.

Prayer of this kind is something more than a last desperate resort. Prayer is action; it is the highest form of human activity. It is faith getting to work. It is love finding expression, bearing those for whom we pray into the presence of God.

Of course, prayer is asking God to intervene; it is the acknowledgement that without His help there is no hope for us. But in prayer at its best we offer to God in our own surrender of ourselves a channel for His intervention. We do not try to use Him for plans and dreams of our own. We yield ourselves to be used of Him in working out His purpose. All this was in Nehemiah's attitude when he prayed before the God of Heaven.

The result was very striking...
©

## \section*{カூவிロナழி •} <br>  











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 stood at the gate of the year，＂Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown＂．And he replied，＂Go out into the darkness，and put your hand into the hand of God．That shall be better than light，and safer than a known way．＂
























1. Fear of circumstances ( $\%$ คก

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Ira F. Stanphill 毋ை ாேேேேிமாกல் கவி ఎ051 "Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand, But I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand."




















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> "It is not what you accomplish;
> It is what you overcome to accomplish it That sets you apart."
> - Jimmy Connors

## றலை - 12 <br>  <br> விఁக்ிலியைロேை








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## "Life is like a piano. <br> What you get out of it

## depends an how you play it."



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In Kerala's countryside we could once easily spot a delightful wild variety of Mussaenda plant. Its first leaves are all dark green, then come white leaves, and finally the cute red flowers inside the white. (My picture here shows a different variety.)

Standing around the plant we children chanted in unison:

Amma karumpi, Makalu velumpi, Makalude makaloru Sundarikkotha.

Roughly translated, it reads:
Mother dark, daughter fair, daughter's daughter damsel fairest.
We learned it from our mothers and grandmothers. Sometimes we would wield a stick and strike down the wild plant leaf by leaf while singing it rhythmically. This was in imitation of some of our teachers who beat us for some reason or no reason. We were unknowingly projecting our anger onto the poor plant. (I wonder if modern man's brutality to nature is some kind of infantile Adam's anger against God who expelled him from paradise. Let's ask Herr Doktor Freud !)

It was much later, while learning about European colonial empires, slave

trade, apartheid and pervasive racial discrimination that I realised how racist and colour-discriminatory our innocently chanted verse was. Some people might say the standard of beauty hidden in the chant was a white British colonial heritage. But it was here with us long before the colonial era. The white European colonial domination of the dark skinned people probably strengthened our own colour discriminatory aesthetics. Deeply ingrained in our caste system was the grand narrative of the so-called ancient Aryan-Dravidian conflict and the dominant aesthetics of fair skinned "Aryans" imposed on all the rest of Indians. Acting in school dramas more than half a century ago I remember how heavily they coated your face with white powder, just to be in line with the standards of the prevailing white skin aesthetics.

In our times the rallying cry Black is Beautiful arose from a deeply wounded collective consciousness of people who have been brutally discriminated against for centuries now.

The horrible killing of George Floyd, our darkskinned African-American brother, once again reminds us how demonic a racist ideology based on skin colour can become. ©

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## WAYS OF THE UNDERDOGStories from the Old Testament and elsewhere



(Continued)

## 4. Ruth and Boaz (Book of Ruth)

Ruth was the daughter-in-law of Elimelech who was a resident of Bethlehem in Judah during the time of the Judges. When there was a famine in the land, he, together with his wife Naomi and sons Mahlon and Kilion, emigrated to the nearby country, Moab. Elimelech died during the sojourn. The sons married Moabite women, Mahlon taking Ruth as his wife and Kilion taking Orpah. After they had lived there for ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died. Naomi was left with her two daughters-in-law.

When Naomi heard that the famine in Judah had passed, she decided to return. She advised her daughters-in-law to return to their own mothers and remarry. Orpah reluctantly left; however, Ruth, in spite of Naomi's dissuasions, accompanied her to Bethlehem. The two women reached Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest in a state of dire poverty. In order to support her mother-in-law and herself, Ruth went to the fields to pick up the grain left over in the fields after the harvest. The field she went to belonged to a man named Boaz who was kind to her because he had heard of her loyalty to her mother-in-law. Ruth told Naomi of Boaz's kindness, and she continued to collect the
leftover grains in his field through the remainder of the barley and wheat harvest.

Boaz was a close relative of Elimelech and therefore one of the family's guardianredeemers who had the obligation to preserve the family name and estate by entering into Levirate union with Ruth. But there was a closer relative who had the first claim on the family inheritance. Boaz could marry Ruth only if that relative relinquished his claim. From the Bible narrative that follows, it is clear that this man was interested only in redeeming their property, but not in a Levirate union with Ruth in order to preserve her dead husband's name. Naomi too might have had apprehensions about this man's intentions. If they approached him for redemption and he refused to marry Ruth, that refusal would have resulted in great humiliation and made it difficult for them to approach other guardian-redeemers down the line.

Naomi who was worried about finding a suitable home for Ruth thought Boaz would make a good husband for Ruth since he was a kind and just man who had a good standing in the society. Normally, it was not possible for them to approach Boaz bypassing the first claimant. So she devised a plan to entice Boaz into marrying Ruth. She then told her daughter-in-law to wash, put on perfume, and get dressed
in her best clothes, go down to the threshing floor where Boaz would be spending the night and lie down by his feet after he had gone to sleep. She did as she was instructed. In the middle of the night he was startled by a woman lying at his feet. He asked her who she was, and she replied: "I am your handmaid Ruth. Spread your robe over your handmaid, for you are a redeeming kinsman.
"Spread your robe over me" was a symbolic request for sexual relations. The plan was to seduce Boaz into a physical union with her, thus making the Levirate marriage a fait accompli. Though he was attracted to her, he didn't immediately fall for her charms. He understood her request and blessed her for it. He also praised her for not pursuing younger men. He then told her that there was a kinsman nearer than he who had the first right to redeem the estate of Elimelech and that it would be necessary for this kinsman to renounce his right before Boaz could proceed in the matter.

Accordingly he called this kinsman to the gate of the city before the elders, and told him of Ruth's situation and his right to redeem the estate and to marry Ruth. The kinsman was willing to redeem the property belonging to Elimelech, but did not desire to marry Ruth. So he renounced his right of redemption, thus allowing Boaz to marry her. Boaz bought the estate from Naomi and married Ruth.

Naomi's motive in making plans for Ruth to seduce Boaz into a Levirate union was pure. She wanted a suitable husband for Ruth who would protect and support her and preserve their family name and estate. Ruth was a woman of noble character. She had accompanied Naomi from Moab in spite of her dissuasions, and remained loyal to her ever after. Whatever she did that night was on the advice of her mother-in-law. She could have gone back to her mother's house and found a new husband or as Boaz noted, she could have gone after younger men. But she did none of these. Her sole motive was to get a guardian redeemer who could preserve her dead husband's name and estate. The seduction was thus a calculated move on their part. But it ultimately resulted in a God-honouring marriage. Ruth and Boaz became the parents of Obed who became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

All these four women (Rebekah, Rachel, Tamar and Ruth) living in a patriarchal society were voiceless and powerless to put across their views to the powers-thatbe. Acting in the best interest of their families, they used whatever means available to them to achieve their ends. History is witness to the fact that their actions found favour with God.

Another underdog success story, but of a different kind, is that of David's win over Goliath.
(To be continued)


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- Chief Editor


## God's Ways Are Inscrutable



God is our Creator, and we are His creatures. The scriptures tell us that God created us in His own image, which should mean that He created us with a mind that is capable of sharing His love with Him. Here we have to understand something that is very important. God is Almighty; His powers are limitless. We, on the other hand, are restricted in many ways by all the limitations that we are created with, for example, the space and time limitations. Concepts like limitless space and limitless time go beyond our powers of comprehension. This being the case, we cannot hope to understand God and His ways fully; there are bound to be inadequacies in our understanding.

As Christians we do believe that God is in control of everything that happens anywhere in the universe at any time. But many of the happenings around us often baffle us; we feel puzzled, sometimes even frustrated. This is because we expect to be able to understand everything fully, which is just not possible. The best way to prevent a feeling of frustration is to accept the fact that we will never be able to have a perfect understanding of matters like the nature of the lives we live here or the functioning of this cosmos - to accept it and to bow our heads in humility before it.

This is not a very easy thing to do, because man, by nature, aspires for much more than he can ever hope to achieve. This is what leads to all the frustration that
we usually experience. Pride is perhaps the most difficult sin to deal with. The humility to come to terms with our limitations comes only from arduous effort, which many people are not able to sustain; they would rather suffer the frustration.

This is a very unChristian attitude towards life. The right Christian attitude is to be humble before God, gracefully accepting our limitations, not aspiring to understand what we cannot - to submit ourselves to God's control of matters - to accede to His ways. His ways are indeed inscrutable. We only add to our frustration by rebelling against them. A rebellious mind does not get us anywhere. Peace and contentment in life come to us only by an unquestioning submission to God's will.

The greatest blessing of being a true Christian is the faith that there is the promise of a sublime life waiting for us at the end of this present life on the earth, that death is not the end of it all. This is the hope that gives us what may be described as 'the peace that passeth understanding' - the hope that sustains us through all the trials and tribulations and adversities of this life here, though we have no clear understanding of what it is going to be like hereafter - the humility to submit ourselves to the divine promise without seeking to find out what it would really mean to us. The key to a true Christian life seems to be the humility that lies at the bottom of it all.


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## Christian Visian-34

Prof. Dr. T.V. Thomas

## THE LAST WAR


"The Last War" is a one-act play, written in 1934, by Neil Grant, a Scottish writer of renown. The play has much significance during this time when the Corona Virus ravages humans all over the world, posing great threat to the existence of mankind on the face of the earth.

In a war between two countries, both the countries use biological weapons loaded with bacteria and viruses. These organisms spreading all over the earth wipe away the entire human race. With no human habitation on earth, a few species of animals summon a meeting; this forms the plot of the play around which the central incidents turn. All animals except the dog are of the opinion that it is much better for them to live in a world free of human beings. Only the dog misses his master badly. The horse says, "When accompanying and carrying men in the battlefield, I have foreseen this plight of humans years ago." The monkey expresses anguish over man's defaming him calling him his ancestor. The lion, the king of the forest, harshly makes his remark that though he has power, he never butchers animals, like man for no reason. He kills them only to whet his appetite. The serpent (snake) who knows man right from the time of creation comments, "Give man a paradise, he will fill it with filth of all kinds; give him a free mind, he will fill it with evil thoughts; give
him beautiful hands, he will use them for making weapons to destroy his fellow beings; send him a prophet, he will drive him away." All the animals assembled there brand man as a 'stupid race' and they express great happiness on getting rid of him from the earth.

While the discussion is in progress, the microbe (virus) which wiped off the humans, appears there. The virus opines that man has been experiencing the end result of feeding him and growing him in the laboratories to destroy fellow men, his enemies. At this stage, an angel enters the scene. The angel has travelled all around the earth, free of human beings, making observations of his own. The angel finds the skyscrapers built by man desolate. The pride of man who considers science as everything, and all his boastful thoughts of conquering space and the moon come to an end. Man abused and killed all God-sent prophets, who came to mend his ways and lead him in the right path. He does not respect God who has made the complex network of millions of neurons in his brain which is responsible for his intelligence. The idiotic thoughts of man who considers himself wise and powerful bring about his own downfall, the angel observes.

In the last scene, when the play has reached its climax, a man who escapes from the clutches of the virus appears.

When all the animals there angrily approach to kill him, the angel intervenes, preventing them from doing so. But the man thinks it better to kill himself than living all alone in this universe. He begs forgiveness of all the animals for the cruelty and evil acts of men on them. The curtain falls as the angel carries him away, protecting him from the animals.

Though the play was written 86 years ago, it is highly thought-provoking especially during this time when the universe itself is under the threat of the corona virus. If we believe what the virus says in the play, we may be forced to believe that man made this virus in his laboratories for killing his enemies. At this stage it is better for us to realize that man is only a tiny link in the long chain of interconnections in this universe and all the knowledge that we have acquired so far is only like a small droplet in the vast ocean of what is there yet to be known. Above all, man must have the humility to bow before nature for its hidden realities which are not fully revealed to him. Even if man cannot comprehend all the universal truths about nature, he must at least try to develop in him a mindset for not abusing it.
C.E.M.Joad, in his essay, 'The Story of the Civilization', written in 1931, warns that if man goes on fighting with lethal nuclear weapons, in the war after the next, he will have to fight with bows and arrows.

Nostradamus, the French astrologer and apothecary, in his book, 'Le Prophetic' written in 1551, predicts: "There will be a twin year (2020) from which will arise a queen (Corona) who will come from the east (China) and who will spread a plague
(Covid - 19), in the darkness of night on a country with seven hills (Italy) and will transform the twilight of men into dust (death), to destroy and ruin the world. It will be the end of the world economy as you know it." This prediction should be viewed in the light of the present day happenings and the expert predictions during the time of the pandemic in the year 2020, that "there will be a huge downfall in the economy as a result of Covid-19 (Corona)."

The poem, 'And People Stayed at Home' written by Kathleen O' Meare, the Irish-French Catholic writer in 1869, is a pointer to our present situation:

> And people stayed at home and read books and listened and rested and exercised and when the danger ended and people found each other grieved for the dead people and they made new choices and dreamed of new visions and created new ways of life and healed the earth completely just as they were healed themselves.

The prophetic lines of the Bible read: "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send a pestilence among my people, if my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sins and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:13-14). Hence, let us be resolute and firm in our faith in God for "nothing can take place without Him sanctioning it."


The word ANGER causes a frown on our faces. No one likes anger. We do not like to deal with an angry person, or to be angry ourselves; yet many a time we go through a bout of anger or confront an angry person.

The trillions of cells in our body like to live in harmony with each other. When we get angry or hate or shout at somebody, the cells are disturbed, and they start fighting with each other. If we are habitually angry, there will be confusion and chaos among the body cells, causing various diseases, mainly what are known as autoimmune diseases, where the body cells attack each other, resulting in a weakening of our immune system. It has been scientifically proved that pent up anger and hatred cause serious illnesses.

There are quite a few simple tips to control anger, like counting 10 to 1 (in reverse), taking deep breaths or moving away from the scene.

Anger is a fire ball thrown by the angry person, and if you are at the receiving end, evade it; if you try to catch it and throw it back at the sender your hands and body will get burned, and there can even be an explosion. If you do not react, the fire ball thrown at you will fall down and get extinguished on its own.

When calamities like serious illnesses afflict us, first we feel sad, and then we tend to get angry as to why this has happened to us. Our mind is a power house, which can control our feelings and emotions. If the mind is strong and we firmly believe that we will overcome the disease, our mind and body will be at peace, and chances are that we will be cured. On the contrary, if we lose hope and bemoan our situation, the disease can overcome us.
"It is part of the cure to wish to be cured." - (Seneca, ancient Roman philosopher.)

In the Holy Bible, we read the story of Job. In spite of the extreme physical agony he had to suffer, and ridicule from friends and his own wife he had to bear, he was resolute in his belief that God would deliver him from his plight. Finally Job comes out of all this, cured of his afflictions and blessed abundantly.

Anger is not a solution to any problem. During the storms and trials in life, hold on to the Lord firmly; He will set things right in His time, not in our time.
"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear" - Isaiah 59:1.
"Getting angry is punishing yourself for the mistakes of others."

## Musings <br> Dr. Molly Joseph <br> for You 1 flawer...



For you I flower for all your care...
don't call me the giant granny tree I am the sapling your forefathers planted... with all their care, I grew up...
now, for you I flower for all your care...
caressed by you generations, I stretched
my branches, leaves to hug you close, you the kernel of my being...

I stood by you in all seasons, you stood for me through thick and thin

When my barks broke open you panicked fetching the expert from far.
missing your parents
I knew you could never brook missing me...
for you I flower for all your care...

I was a part of the tumult the ups and downs of your life...
when on moonlit nights parties were held decking me
in multicolours...
when on heavy nights
you sat and wept under me, my leaves fanning you...
thrill was it when kids and puppy vied with each
to pick the mangoes that I threw.
for you I flower

(Poem taken from ‘Myna’s Musings’ written by Dr. Molly Joseph, former Head of English Department, St. Xavier's College, Aluva, and presently Professor in Communicative English at FISAT, Angamaly. Published by Authors' Press, New Delhi)

# THE (P)ART OF POSITIVE THINKING IN EFFECTIVE HEALING 

AAny time in our lives, some chronic diseases may befall us when least expected. What is serious and what is mild depend on our perception. Mild ailments, we prefer to treat ourselves, but if it is serious, we seek expert guidance. Usually, diseases related to the heart, lungs, brain and kidneys as well as cancer are chronic in nature. It may also be an accident or a calamity, leading to serious consequences. Some ailments, which we take as mild, may later turn out to be serious because of incorrect diagnosis or improper treatment. We may wonder why there were no symptoms, and why the doctors whom we met earlier did not caution us. On detection of a serious disease, the medical team may make it appear as alarming as possible, because of the seriousness of the situation or some ulterior motives.

When others fall sick, our empathy and sympathy will flow profusely, and we try our best to enlighten them with advice and stories, abundant in our stock. We visit the patient and make him (not gender-specific) recollect his traumatic experiences in connection with the disease. Under our compulsion, he will be giving a verbatim report, reliving the painful days he had overcome. Simultaneously, we may transmit some infections, both physical and mental, quite unknowingly and unintentionally. We never realize that we are making him more miserable. But, when we ourselves are sick, we don't want any disturbance from others, and we seek peace and cure.

Now, as a patient, there are a few general questions that a person asks himself:

1) Why did this happen to me?
2) How serious is it?
3) Is the treatment useful and how far can it be/should be continued?
4) Is there a permanent cure, or, in short, how long will I live?

## WHY DID HIS HAPPEN TO ME?

This is the first question that comes to our mind when something happens against our will or planning. Yes, why did this happen... to me... and to me alone? Frankly, there is no answer. It is a reality that it has happened. We have no way other than to accept it. We can go for its medical reasons. We undergo a lot of tests, scans, biopsies and the like. It may or may not lead to the actual causes, but we will have to be satisfied with the assumptions or findings of the knowledgeable persons whom we approach.

In this connection, it is good to remember that we do not ask 'why?', when good things happen in our lives or when we are better than others. So, when we ask 'why?', we seek something deeper than the medical reasons. In fact, we are asking this question to God, since we fail to understand why God allowed this to happen to us! We may even go to the extent of thinking that God failed in His duty to protect us!!

When we are afflicted, there are various ways in which we perceive it. Some people believe that it is divine punishment for the sins of the patient and his forefathers. It is said that
such punishments will remain in force upon seven generations. Some feel that God is testing the people whom He loves more, like asking Abraham to sacrifice his son; and some believe that God is using this to bring us closer to Him!

Some people do not agree with this. They hold that God is Love, and so, He will not use negative ways to make us love Him. When Jesus was healing a blind person, people asked Him whether the person was born blind because of his sins or that of his parents. He replied that it was to reveal the work of God in his life. He added that all the 18 persons who were crushed under the fallen Tower of Siloam were not worse sinners! Further, it is said that 'if a father eats raw grapes, it will not affect his son's teeth'. Thus, there are biblical references that support all kinds of views. All these are related to specific contexts. The problem lies in taking these out of context.

I have heard religious leaders telling that ever since Adam ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, the inherent sin is passing down the generations through the 'birth of a child, which itself is a sin'. But then, I am at a loss to understand why they overlook the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which is the remedy for our sins. Further, the 'birth of a child' is the extension of the divine act of creation, using the faculties that God has bestowed on us! Misuse of this faculty may be a sin but not the birth of a child!

While pondering over all these arguments about the causes of his afflictions, the patient looks around and wonders why this does not happen to the ruthless persons around with brutal life styles. They thrive in their lives.., amass wealth... purchase high positions... enjoy life.., and continue to exploit others..., but apparently nothing bad happens to them!

It is no wonder if the patient remains puzzled for a moment. He ponders over the religious lessons that he learned, all the good
work he had done and the normal life that he led. He wants to find out where exactly he had gone wrong! To me, it appears that all diseases cannot be attributed to sin and that it is not correct to say that God is using the sword of disease to bring people closer to Him. In fact, we must be close to God always, not only in our bad times, but in our good times as well.

For the weak and afflicted, God is the only refuge. Turning to man may not always be useful. So, when we are in trouble, we accept the reality and appeal to God for cure, because He is our strength. That will mainly keep us calm, despite the gravity of our problems. More than the cure, it will strengthen us to face the situation. In my life, I have gone through the 'valley of the shadow of death' (Psalm 23:4), but the 'green pastures and still waters' lay along the sides. I was not afraid because I believed that 'He will stand by me and comfort me with His rod and staff'.

## HOW SERIOUS IS THE DISEASE?

This question is more of a medical nature, but obviously leading to associated financial concerns. In this context, we may have come across some medicos who try to mislead us for selfish reasons, even when the disease is well under control. But if you are lucky, some 'angels' may appear out of the blue to give you hope and strength! The patient and his well-wishers have a right to know the real picture, to be prepared mentally and financially. Unfortunately, more damage is done by some visitors, who pretend to know everything under the sky. So, it is always better to limit visitors, particularly in serious diseases, unless their presence is beneficial to the patient. The negative inputs put down the patient and cut down his optimism, which is very necessary for effective healing. The main benefit of knowing the seriousness of the disease is that a casual approach can be avoided.
(To be continued)

# DID HE TOUCH? 

Recently, I came across a lengthy debate in a WhatsApp group as to whether St. Thomas did touch the wounds of Jesus Christ? I hope all know its background, narrated in John 20:19-29.

When the risen Christ first appeared before His disciples, Thomas was not there. Christ had shown them His wounds so that they would believe it is Him. When Thomas returned to the group, they told him that Christ had come. In a fit of disbelief or perhaps in the disappointment that he could not be present there when Christ came, Thomas uttered, "Except I shall see in his hands, the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." (Vs.25)

In His next visit after eight days, Christ invited Thomas to "reach hither thy finger, and see my hands; and reach (hither) thy hand, and put it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing." John does not say whether Thomas did touch as asked by Christ, but it is recorded that Thomas answered "My Lord and my God." I believe that he did not touch, but the very vision of the risen Christ was more than enough for him.

Now back to the debate, the selfmade theologians in the WhatsApp world
argued at length and breadth whether Thomas touched Christ or not. They however overlooked the fact that the only narration of this event is in the book of John, as above. But when the arguments heated up, it touched the pinnacle with comparison of supremacy between Thomas and Peter, and then went down to the very foundation of the Christian Church in India!

It looked funny to me. What is the use of the argument? It has no impact on our social or religious life except that it keeps us busy in this corona-stricken period. Most of our arguments and debates are like this. We bring out a piece of bone, and make it a bone of contention. We make a mountain out of a mouse, and when we are about to mount the mountain, the mouse runs away.

Jesus Christ says, "Let your speech be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: and more than this is of the evil." (Mt. 5:37) It is not that we should be silent always, but that every word that we speak should be out of our conviction... and profitable to the speaker as well as to the listener.

But, did Thomas actually touch Jesus? Keep discussing, if you have nothing better to do..... (July 3 is St. Thomas Day.) ©


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